KERMIT: logicalization of BERT
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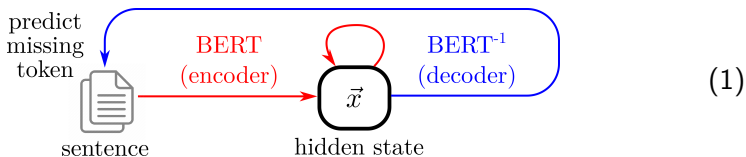
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Table of contents

- BERT uses ordinary text corpuses to induce knowledge, forming representations that have universality:


$$\tag{1}$$

In other words, the hidden state compresses the meaning of sentences, that can be used in other scenarios

- This implies that human-level AI can be *induced* from existing corpora, without the need to retrace human infant development
- This training technique came from an earlier paper, unrelated to BERT's internal architecture

BERT's internal architecture

BERT results from combining several ideas:

- BERT is basically a seq-to-seq transformation
- Seq-to-seq was originally solved by RNNs
- But RNNs are slow, researchers proposed to replace them with CNNs

$$(2)$$
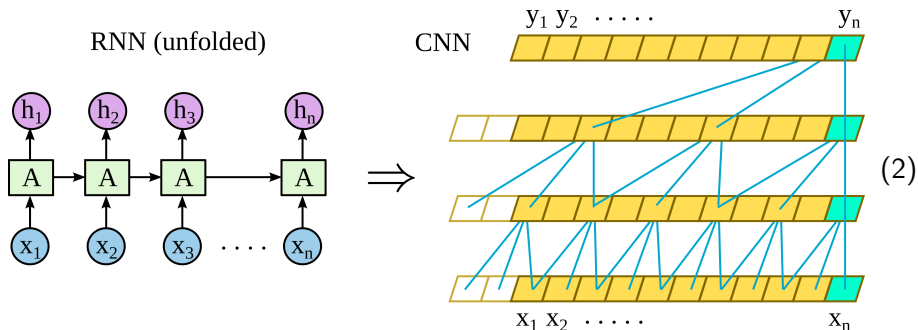
- CNN with attention mechanism gives rise to Transformer
- My idea is to incorporate symmetric NN into BERT while following this line of thinking

Symmetry in logic

- Words form sentences, analogous to concepts forming propositions in logic
- From an abstract point of view, logic can be seen as an algebra with 2 operations: a non-commutative multiplication ($\cdot$, for composition of concepts) and a commutative addition ($\wedge$, for conjunction of propositions)
- For example:

$$A \wedge B \qquad \equiv \qquad B \wedge A$$
$$\text{it's raining} \wedge \text{lovesick} \quad \equiv \quad \text{lovesick} \wedge \text{it's raining} \tag{3}$$

- Word2Vec was also ground-breaking, but it was easy to go from Word2Vec to Sentence2Vec: just concatenate the vectors
  Sentences correspond to propositional logic
- A set of propositions requires symmetric NN to process, as elements of the set are permutation invariant

Symmetric neural network

- The symmetric NN problem has been solved by 2 papers:
  [PointNet 2017] and [DeepSets 2017]
- Any symmetric function can be represented by the following form (a special case of the Kolmogorov-Arnold representation of functions):

$$f(x, y, ...) = g(h(x) + h(y) + ...) \tag{4}$$

g-network

"Adder" layer $\qquad$ (5)

h-networks
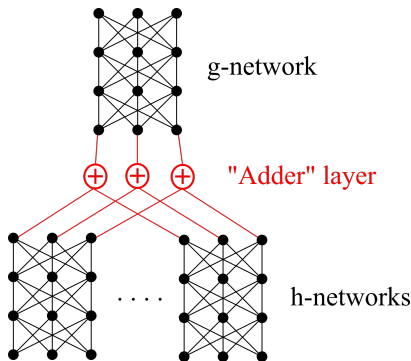
Logicalization of BERT

- We can convert BERT's hidden state into a set of propositions, by replacing the original decoder with a sym NN:

original BERT

logic BERT

sym NN

(6)

hidden-state (propositions)
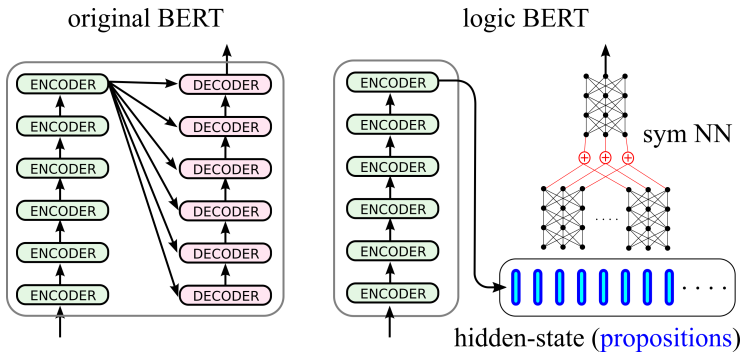
- Below we'll see that this may not be necessary, as BERT's attention mechanism can also be used to perform logic inference

Connection between AI and logic

- If AI is based on logic, there must exist a precise connection between them
- BERT seems to be performing some kind of transformations between sentences, such sentences are simply compositions of word-embedding vectors:

$$\text{Socrates} \cdot \text{is} \cdot \text{human} \xrightarrow{\;BERT\;} \text{Socrates} \cdot \text{is} \cdot \text{mortal} \qquad (7)$$

While this may seem crude, it is effectively the same as a logic formula:

$$\forall x. \; \text{Human}(x) \to \text{Mortal}(x) \qquad (8)$$

Surprisingly, by the Curry-Howard correspondence, this formula corresponds to the mapping (7) above!

- In another set of slides we shall explore this connection. One could say the mathematical structure of logic is "eternal"; It will provide guidance for the long-term development of AI

What is attention?

- Attention originated with Seq2seq, then BERT introduced self-attention
- The essence of attention is weighing
- For each input, attention weighs the relevance of every other input and draws information from them accordingly to produce the output
- In BERT, attention is a relation among words in a sentence:

<p align="center">I   kicked   the   ball</p>

who?   did what?   to whom?

<p align="center">I   kicked   the   ball</p>
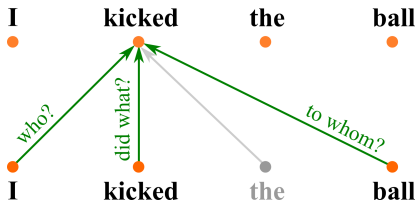
$$(9)$$

- From a logic point of view, words $\neq$ propositions
- In logic, the distinction between sub-propositional and propositional levels is of crucial importance!

Predicates and propositions

- The word "predicate" comes from Latin "to declare"
- In logic, a predicate is a declaration without a subject or object; In other words, it is a proposition with "holes"
- Proposition = predicate + objects
- Eg: Human(John), Loves(John, Mary)
- From the logic point of view, the output of attention is the fusion of a predicate with its objects:
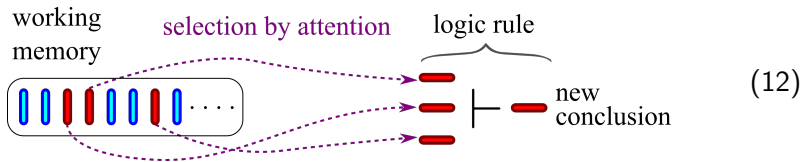
$$predicate(\bullet, \bullet, \bullet)$$

(10)

$$object_1 \qquad object_2 \qquad\qquad object_3$$
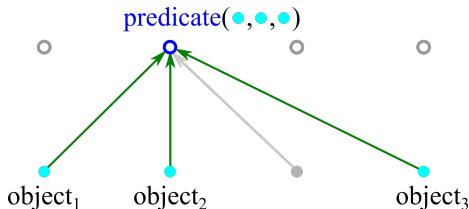
- Or figuratively:

$$predicate + objects = proposition$$

$$\circ + \bullet\bullet\bullet \,.... = \rule{1.5em}{0.6em}$$

(11)

"Attention is all you need" ?

- Analogously, attention on higher levels process relations among propositions
- We wish for attention to select propositions that are relevant for deduction:

$$(12)$$

- But to choose K propositions from a set of N, there would be $\binom{N}{K}$ subsets, an exponential number
- BERT's way is to output only N propositions per each layer, each proposition is "supported" by all N propositions in the previous layer; The influence of premises are weighted by a matrix
- By the Curry-Howard isomorphism, BERT's "transform" corresponds to some kind of alternative logic, which has the advantage of very fast execution
- BERT's logic seems highly restricted, but the superficial restrictions may not prevent it from being a universal logic
- The key is to find a balance between speed and expressive power of the logic; BERT's original designers may not have realized they created a very optimized logic, and it may be hard to improve further

Content-addressable long-term memory

- The original BERT's hidden state lacked a logical structure; It was not clear what it contains exactly. With logicalization, propositions inside BERT can be stored into a long-term memory:
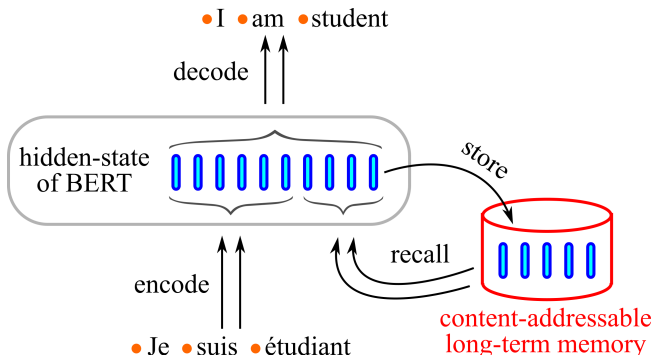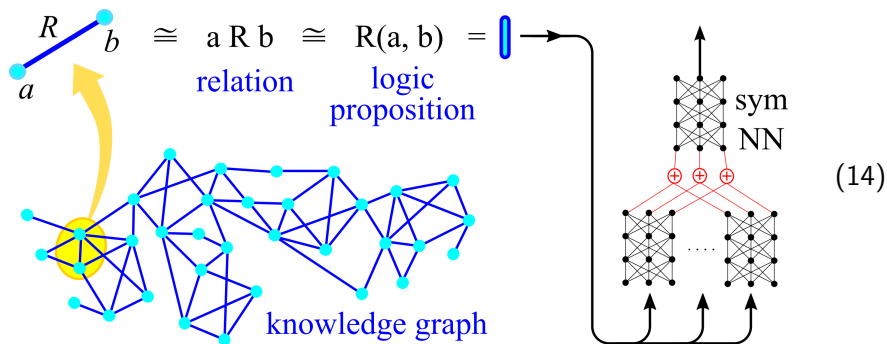

$$(13)$$

Eg. "The sun is hot", "Water flows downhill" are facts that stay constant
- Name: Knowledge-Enhanced Reasoning with Memorized Items
- This is getting very close to strong AI, and depends crucially on logicalization
- The content-addressable memory idea came from Alex Graves *et al*'s Neural Turing Machine [2014]

Knowledge graphs

- One cannot feed a knowledge graph directly into a neural network, as the input must be a vector. A solution is to break the graph into edges, where each edge is equivalent to a relation or proposition. One could say that graphs are isomorphic to logic

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} R & & & & & & \\ & b & \cong & \text{a R b} & \cong & \text{R(a, b)} & = \end{array}$$

relation

logic proposition

sym NN

knowledge graph

(14)

- As edges are invariant under permutations, it seems that we must use symmetric NNs to process them
- Logicalization provides a bridge between BERT and knowledge graphs

Doubts about logicism

- Many people question: Do our brains really use symbolic logic to think?
- To say the least, all our languages are essentially in logical form
- Our impression is that the brain constructs "mental models" of the world and "reads off" conclusions from such models
- Consider a description: "Wife cheats on husband, stubs him with knife"

(15)

- What is she wearing? What color is her dress? Such details are imagined and unwarranted
- So what kind of details can our model have? The answer is: it cannot have ANY detail, except those entailed or constrainted by logic
- Models may be constructed from abstract logic propositions; Models with a lot of sensory details are implausible
- Perhaps the brain is much closer to formal logic than we'd thought

References

Questions, comments welcome 😌

[1] Alex Graves, Greg Wayne, and Ivo Danihelka. "Neural Turing Machines". In: *CoRR* abs/1410.5401 (2014). arXiv: 1410.5401. URL: http://arxiv.org/abs/1410.5401.

[2] Qi et al. "Pointnet: Deep Learning on Point Sets for 3D Classification and Segmentation". In: *CVPR* (2017). https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.00593.

[3] Zaheer et al. "Deep sets". In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 30 (2017), pp. 3391–3401.